



# PRESS RELEASE

## NATIONAL AGRICULTURAL STATISTICS SERVICE

United States Department of Agriculture • Washington, DC 20250  
Washington Field Office • Olympia, WA 98507  
Ag Statistics Hotline: 1-800-727-9540 • [www.usda.gov/nass/](http://www.usda.gov/nass/)



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Contact: Joe Parsons (360)902-1940

### 2005 Washington Apple Production Down 7 Percent from 2004

**Olympia** - “Washington’s first production forecast for the 2005 **apple** crop is 5.60 billion pounds, down 7 percent from last year’s crop,” stated Joe Parsons with USDA’s National Agricultural Statistics Service. Washington’s production makes up 57 percent of the U.S. total. Mild temperatures during February and March turned cold in April, causing many producers to experience production losses due to poor pollination and frosts. A heavy frost occurred April 12 in the Yakima Valley.

Nationally, apple production is forecast at 9.84 billion pounds, down 6 percent from last year but 12 percent above 2003. Compared to 2004, production decreases in Eastern and Western States offset a projected increase in the Central States. Production in the Western States is forecast at 6.28 billion pounds, down 8 percent from last year but 19 percent above 2003. California’s forecast is 410 million pounds, 5 percent above last year. Growers are expecting a promising crop with few weather related problems. Cool temperatures in June enhanced fruit color and good fruit quality is reported. Oregon’s production is forecast at 130 million pounds, 20 percent below 2004. Poor weather during bloom affected pollination and led to variable fruit set. Production in the Central States is forecast at 1.15 billion pounds, an increase of 3 percent from 2004 but 7 percent below 2003. Michigan’s production forecast is 820 million pounds, up 8 percent from last year but 8 percent below 2003. The crop is developing well across the State. In the Eastern States, production is forecast at 2.41 billion pounds, down 4 percent from last year but 6 percent above 2003. New York’s crop is forecast at 1.15 billion pounds, down 10 percent from last year’s crop but 7 percent above 2003. A widespread frost on May 13 caused damage in several areas. Pennsylvania’s forecast of 430 million pounds is an increase of 6 percent from 2004 but is 3 percent below 2003. Conditions have generally been good, with adequate rainfall for sizing while disease and insect pressures have been average.

**Bartlett pear** production in California, Oregon and Washington is forecast 408,000 tons, 7 percent lower than the June 1 forecast and 11 percent lower than last year. Washington producers expect to harvest 170,000 tons, down 3 percent from the June forecast and 1 percent below the previous season. Some producers report lighter fruit set due to frost and poor weather conditions during pollination in April. California Bartlett production is forecast at 180,000 tons, down 10 percent from the June forecast and 19 percent below 2004. Spring rains destroyed a substantial portion of the pear blossoms. As the season progressed, additional rain and hail damage made much of this year’s Bartlett crop unmarketable. Production in Oregon is forecast at 58,000 tons, down 6 percent from the previous forecast and 8 percent below 2004. Growers in the Willamette Valley are expecting a reduced harvest due to the adverse weather in February and the first week in March causing poor pollination. In southern Oregon, producers are expecting a normal crop, though frost, poor pollination, and hail damage were reported.

Washington **winter pear** production is forecast at 225,000 tons, 8 percent above a year ago but 5 percent below 2003. The Wenatchee district experienced favorable growing conditions this season. In Oregon, other pear production is forecast at 152,000 tons, 2 percent above last year but 3 percent below 2003. Producers report both good fruit size and quality. The California crop is forecast at 45,000 tons, down 6 percent from 2004 and 18 percent below two years ago. Spring rains had a detrimental affect on the blooms causing the crop to be lighter than average

U.S. **grape** production is forecast at 6.80 million tons, up 9 percent from 2004 and 2 percent above the 2003 season. California leads the U.S. in grape production with 89 percent of the total. Washington and New York are the next largest producing States, with 6 percent and 2 percent, respectively. Washington expects to harvest 375,000 tons, up 40 percent from 2004. If realized, this will be the highest production on record. Washington wine grape production is forecast at 125,000 tons, 17 percent above last season. The juice type grape forecast, at 250,000 tons, is up 56 percent from 2004. This season has experienced moderate and consistent weather giving rise to exceptional growing conditions. California’s all grape forecast, at 6.04 million tons, is down 3 percent from the July forecast but 8 percent above 2004. California’s wine type grape production is expected to total 2.95 million tons, 49 percent of California’s total grape crop. California’s raisin type grape production is forecast at 2.30 million tons, 38 percent of California’s total grape crop. Production of raisin varieties is down 6 percent from the July forecast but 13 percent above 2004. Production of table type grapes is forecast at 790,000 tons, 13 percent of the total California crop. The table type production forecast is down 2 percent from the July forecast but 3 percent above 2004.

Washington **prune** production is forecast at 4,000 tons, down 27 percent from 2004 and 15 percent below 2003. Cold spring weather during April bloom resulted in poor conditions for pollination. Many growers reported frost damage throughout the month of April. If realized, this would be a record low production for Washington. The Oregon forecast, at 3,000 tons, is 77 percent below the large 2004 production and 45 percent less than the 2003 weather reduced crop. This low production was caused by spring like weather during February and March followed by a return of cold and rain during bloom. If realized, this would be a record low production in Oregon.

Washington’s **peach** production is forecast at 22,000 tons, unchanged from the previous forecast but up 2 percent from the previous season. The California Freestone crop stands at 410,000 tons, 6 percent below last year and 1 percent below 2003. The Clingstone crop in California is 530,000 tons, 2 percent below last year and 1 percent below 2003.

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